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WEST YARMOUTH (Mass.) HOUSES

Seventy-Five Years Ago

From Parker's River Westward

By DANIEL WING.

"I do not envy any man, that absence of sentiment which makes some people careless of the memorials of their ancestors, and whose blood can be warmed up only by talking of horses or the price of hops."

Blades, in Enemies of Books.

It has been asserted by some historian that the Crowels or Crowells of the Middle states were originally Cromwells and that they dropped the letter M about the time they dropped their anchor in a harbor of the American continent. It requires but little knowledge of history to convince one that in many instances, during the political struggles between England and France, hundreds of years ago, it was advisable for the safety of one's person to change the family name. For a long period the relations between England and Normandy were intimate and more or less complex.

The Norman French name Le Crochere (pronounced Cro share) was easily abbreviated by dropping the first syllable and the final e. This left Crocher, which, in English, would be pronounced Crocker: hence the changes in spelling and pronunciation. Another change was effected by eliminating the final syllable of Crochere altogether: hence the names Cro, Crow and Crowe, which by the process of evolution have become Crowell.

It was natural that the descendants of John Crowe, who lived near Follens pond, should establish their residences along the northern shore of the Cape; and that those of Yelverton should settle on the southern coast near the home of their paternal ancestor, where there was an abundance of land suitable for tilling and a natural growth of salt grasses for their cattle.

The woods furnished an abundance of timber for the construction of dwellings and barns, and the waters, both fresh and salt, yielded considerable food for their tables.

In later years the coasting trade furnished employment for many, and a goodly number of those who afterwards became masters of

merchant ships, took their first lessons as cooks and "hands" on board the small craft which were largely owned and sailed by their fathers or near relatives.

The boys of those days, instead of wasting their time in pursuit of pleasure, worked on the home lands, hoeing corn and potatoes, cutting wood for fuel, milking the cows morning and night, going to the district school for a few weeks in the winter and so keeping up the round of duties throughout the year. Those indeed were strenuous times, the like of which the rising generation knows but little from personal experience. But there was a compensaion in the fact that in that way were produced men of sturdy character, energetic, self-reliant, persistent. Some of them have gained an enviable reputation as ship masters, while others have attained success in other departments of human endeavor.

The exact spot on which Yelverton's dwelling stood is not known; but is supposed to have been in the vicinity of the residences formerly owned and occupied by the late Captains Elkanah Crowell and Zadok Crowell. The building may have been constructed of logs from the adjacent woods. Here Yelverton lived forty-four years. His wife Elizabeth survived him twenty years and died in November, 1703. The will of the former is dated Dec. 23, 1681, and is signed "Yelverton Crowell alias Crow," which seems to indicate the period in which the final change in surname was made.

The site of the residence of John, son of Yelverton Crowe, is known. A great-great-grandson of the latter showed it to a descendant in the seventh generation and he in turn pointed out the spot to one now living. The old Yelverton farm has been occupied and worked by his descendants in all the successive generations down to the present time. Captain Elkanah Crowell[7], (Elkanah[6], Elkanah[5], Simeon[4], Ephraim[3], Thomas[2], Yelverton[1]) now living in Hyannis at the age of 85 years, has kindly furnished the writer of this article with a list of householders along the line of what is now known as South Sea avenue in the order in which they were located 75 years ago.

The writer has looked up the male ancestral line of some of these worthies and offers the same in the hope that it will be acceptable to some at least who have not the time or the inclination to unravel the intricasies of genealogical history.

Commencing at Great Island, the first residence to be named was that of Captain Nehemiah Crowell[6] (Abner[4], Thomas[3], Thomas[2], Yelverton[1]), who died about the year 1849, leaving the house to be occupied by his son Robert.

The next was the residence of John Hallet, who married Rachel Crowell of the sixth generation from Yelverton. This house was moved from its original site many years ago and now stands upon land on the county road owned by the heirs of the late F. A. Abel. In still earlier times there had been a dwelling on the "Island" occupied by the family of Freeman Hallet, and later by his

widow; but which was removed longer ago than Captain Crowell can remember, and became the residence of the late B. K. Chase, who married a daughter of the former owner.

Near the Island fence, on the mainland, were a lot of saltworks and an establishment where lampblack was made. Salt was made in this vicinity as early as 1839, by Gorham Crowell and Ezekiel Crowell. The lampblack was manufactured by a man named John Bangs, who lived in the house later occupied by Timothy Lewis on the easterly side of the highway, now serving as a summer residence.

Then, on the west side, was the home of the late Alexander Crowell, a son of Nehemiah, already mentioned, now also a summer residence. Back in the fields was the ruins of an old cellar on the estate of Ezekiel Crowell, where a house had been located; by whom it was built and occupied is beyond the knowledge of any one now living. A little farther north was an old, low, double house, owned by Captain Ezekiel Crowell[5] (Jeremiah[4], Joseph[3], John[2], Yelverton[1]). This place was occupied by Joshua Hallet and Arven Baker some seventy or more years ago; also by a family of Winslows from Brewster who tended saltworks near by. The building was subsequently torn down and Captain Ezekiel Crowell, son of Jeremiah, built a residence near the site of the old house. One of the daughters of the former married the late Frederic P. Baker; one, Captain Edward Lewis, and the third, still living at the advanced age of eighty-nine and one-half years, is the widow of the late Heman Chase of West Yarmouth. This building was moved about 30 years ago to South Yarmouth.

Next in order stood the low, double house of Timothy Crowell[5], son of Jeremiah[4], previously named in this article. This house in later years was the home of Zenas Wood, who married Sarah Ann, daughter of Timothy, July 1, 1838. Mr Wood's family moved West many years ago, and finally the house was taken down.

The late Captain Zadok Crowell[6] built a house close by the site of that of his father Timothy[5], and occupied the same with his family for many years. This house, now known as Creltholme, has been for several years past the residence of Joshua F. Crowell[8] (Isaiah[7], Elkanah[6], Elkanah[5], Simeon[4], Ephraim[3], Thomas[2], Yelverton[1]). The present owner is also a descendant of Yelverton in the eighth generation in the line coming down from Thomas, the fourth son of Yelverton, born about the year 1647.

On the east side of the way nearly opposite the last named, stood the house of Captain Ebenezer Crowell[5] (Solomon[4], Joseph[3], John[2], Yelverton[1]) who was lost at sea in February, 1828, when about 42 years old. His widow survived him many years. None of their children are now living, but there are grandchildren. The old dwelling was bought by Reuben Blachford and went into the construction of a new house on Main

street, opposite the late Isaac Crowell's, now occupied by Addie F. Crowell.

On the west side of the Lane, as it was formerly called, once stood the residence of Captain Elkanah Crowell[5], son of Simeon. This building was taken down about the year 1833 and a new structure was erected by Captain Elkanah of the sixth generation near the site of his father's house. Of the children who grew up in this home, Captain Elkanah Crowell of the seventh generation, heretofore named in this article, and a sister living in the West are the sole survivors. The last-named dwelling is located near the spot once occupied by the residence of John, son of Yelverton, and presumably quite near also to that of Yelverton himself.

Almost directly opposite the residence of Captain Elkanah Crowell of the sixth generation from Yelverton, the pioneer of 1639, there had stood for a number of years the district schoolhouse, to which we presume the description of one elsewhere by Whittier would apply:

"Within, the master's desk is seen,
Deep scarred by raps official;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jack-knife's carved initial;
The charcoal frescoes on its wall;
The door's worn sill betraying
The feet that, creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing."

About the year 1839 or 40 this building of an early period in the educational history of this section was moved farther north and became a part of the residence of Captain Zenas Crowell. A new schoolhouse was built on the same site about the year 1839; but that too was sold when the larger building now in use superseded it on Main street, and it was used as a storehouse for a time on the opposite side of the street by Elkanah Crowell, the 6th.

Again it was sold and removed to Main street near the old cemetery and converted into a dwelling house by George Taylor, a citizen of the village.

On the west side of South Sea avenue, next north of Captain Elkanah Crowell's, stood the residence of the late Captain Henry Crowell[6] (Nehemiah[5], Abner[4], Thomas[3], Thomas[2], Yelverton[1]). This dwelling has been removed south, to a site nearly opposite that formerly occupied by the home of the late Alexander Crowell previously mentioned.

Next in order came the residence of the late Davis Crowell, on the east side of the street, now owned and used as a summer residence by Edward Brown.

Again, on the west side of the highway, stood the chimney stack of an old dwelling, the original builder of which cannot now be certainly known.

Mrs. Martha Chase (daughter of Captain Ezekiel Crowell of the fifth generation from Yelverton), now living at the advanced age of ninety years, remembers distinctly that her grandfather, Jeremiah, who died in 1827, once lived there.

It is quite possible that the building itself was erected by Joseph, the father of Jeremiah, and a grandson of Yelverton, the pio-

neer. This house was locally known as the Molly Gamie house. Jeremiah married Mary Hallet in 1778, and Mary was frequently called Molly in the early days.

Then came the home of the late Captain Henry Taylor with its large family of boys and girls, most of whom have passed away.

Next came Captain Zenas Crowell's, where were four daughters and five sons, only one of whom, the youngest daughter, is now living.

Thus ends the panorama of South Sea avenue as it was seventy-five years ago. What changes have taken place since then! Quite a number of the dwellings still remain upon the sites they occupied in the long ago; but the occupants are not the same. Children have been born, have attained their three score years and ten, and have passed away, leaving their places to be filled by others, who, in their turn will occupy for a more or less brief period.

"Like to the falling of a star,
Or as the flights of eagles are;
Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue,
Or silver drops of morning dew;
Or like a wind that chafes the flood,
Or bubbles which on water stood:
E'en such is man, whose borrowed light
Is straight called in and paid to-night.
The wind blows out, the bubble dies;
The spring entombed in autumn lies;
The dew dries up, the star is shot;
The flight is past, and man forgot."
—H. King.

The last line often becomes true sooner than it should.

The body of land known as Great Island has been doubtless, in the long ago, an island in fact, as well as in name; but the mighty forces of wind and wave which have extended seaward the bar off Bass river and formed Dogfish bar farther west, have formed a sandy beach which transforms the one time island into a peninsula. It is true that the highway leading to it is bridged over an arm of Lewis bay; but this is because the line of the highway, as established, is more direct than the route nearer the sea shore.

It is reasonable to presume that this peninsula was a part of the tract taken up by Yelverton Crowe, the pioneer, in 1639.

The fact that it would make the area of his territory possibly as great as three square miles is no argument against its probability. In Middleboro, as well as on the Cape, in the early days, large tracts of land were purchased from the Indians and were known as the Twelve Men's Purchase, Five Men's Purchase, Sixteen Shillings Purchase, etc., and the last named seems to indicate the consideration paid.

The southeastern point of the peninsula was formerly known as Fox point; the southernmost extremity still bears the name Point Gammon. Why this name, which intimates imposture, delusion,

trickery, was applied to this headland is somewhat difficult to ascertain with any degree of certainty; but some investigation by correspondence and a study of maps new and old, has convinced the writer that it originated with mariners and not with landsmen. The writer, in a former article, was led into error by a statement made to him in good faith, that a tradition had been handed down to the effect that a few generations ago, cattle were driven across a narrow channel to Bishop and Clerk's and pastured there. He invited criticism and suggestions from others, and has received letters from several parties which have convinced him that the following statements can be relied upon.

A great many years ago the Bishop and Clerk's ledge was an island about five miles in circumference, and sheep used to be scowed across the channel and pastured there. The channel at that time must have been considerably narrower than now; but never, since the advent of white men in New England, has it been shallow enough to admit of its being forded.

The native Indians accounted for the islands Nantucket and Marthas Vineyard by a mythical story which ran somewhat in this wise:

A great many moons ago there lived upon the Cape a giant named Maushop. One day he waded out into the South sea to a great distance, for his legs were exceedingly long and his bodily vigor wonderful. After a time his moccasins became full of sand, which made walking painful. Thereupon he emptied one, and the island of Nantucket appeared above the surface of the water, while the sand which he poured from the other formed the island known as Marthas Vineyard. He lighted his pipe and volumes of smoke arose, obscuring the vision for miles around. Ever afterward, when fog appeared over the water, the Indians would exclaim in their native tongue, "Here comes old Maushop's smoke."

The government lighthouse was established on Point Gammon in 1816 and was kept by Samuel Peak until 1826. He was succeeded by his son, John Peak, who officiated until the light was discontinued in 1859, when the Bishop and Clerk's lighthouse, which had been in process of construction for several years, was put to service.

Hyannis Harbor light was established in 1849; the Range light on Railroad wharf in 1885; the line of the two serving as a guide in entering Hyannis harbor.

Captain Elkanah Crowell, who hoed corn and dug potatoes near Fox point and Point Gammon, when a boy, estimates the area of cleared land on the southern and western portions of "The Island" at that time to have been twenty acres or more, and that probably there were thirty to forty acres of woodland. This territory was owned by some dozen or more proprietors, and when the wood was big enough to convert into firewood the area was laid off into lots and the proprietors bid for choice. Captain Crowell himself drew a plat of the woodland for

that purpose about forty years ago.

The body of water north of Great Island, known as Lewis bay, doubtless received its name from some family residing in that neighborhood.

The late Amos Otis, Esq., is authority for the statement that the "South Sea men" of Barnstable in 1696 included Thomas, Edward and John Lewis, and that the last named fell in battle in the war with the Indian chief, King Philip. The name Lewis does not appear on the Yarmouth tax list for 1676. Additional facts along this line would be welcome, to show the origin of the name and period in which it was applied to this beautiful body of water. It may be that, forming, as it does, a portion of the eastern boundary of Hyannis, it received its name from the Lewis families of Barnstable.

About a hundred years ago, "there were in this bay four coasters of about forty-five tons each, and ten fishing vessels of from forty to fifty tons each." The lampblack and salt making industries added to the volume of business in this section. Today these are all gone and their places taken by summer cottages and pleasure craft.

Farming, too, except on a very small scale, has become a thing of the past; although the raising of vegetables is carried on to some extent. A lady is still living who remembers riding home from a party in an oxcart; but oxcarts have been succeeded by carryalls and truck wagons, and they, in turn, are being supplanted by automobiles and power trucks.

However, the old days were good old days of peace and comparative contentment; and we of the living should not lose sight of them in our scramble for that which is just ahead of us.

To the section of which we write, in 1639, nineteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and one year after the incorporation of the town of Yarmouth, came Yelverton Crowe, the pioneer, who was not only a man respected by his fellow citizens, but one who accepted and performed well his duties as a citizen. He not only served his town in several official capacities, but served, too, as a soldier in King Philip's war.

It would be exceedingly appropriate to erect some memorial to his memory in the cemetery where so many of the early settlers quite probably including himself are buried, and to mark the historic sites of the neighborhood, before they are altogether lost to human knowledge.

With suitable inscriptions, no other material would seem to be as appropriate for this purpose as the massive boulders of the town which he and his descendants have done so much to establish and perpetuate.

The writer has several times mentioned this name and has diligently sought a reason for its bestowal upon the southern headland of Great Island. He, himself, has at sundry times, when sailing in Nantucket sound, seen a mirage in that vicinity which so distorted the shore outline as apparently to make it possible to

sail through several channels, where, in fact, there was no water at all.

When the Bishops was an island of considerable extent, as it was a few generations ago, and Great Island extended farther south, a mirage or a more or less dense mist or fog may have made that portion of the coast even more deceptive than now. Hence the name, as applied by mariners who were gammoned by it— Point Gammon.

As particularly interesting in this connection I quote a passage from Thoreau's "The Maine Woods," page 227, descriptive of a canoe trip on Moosehead lake in Maine with one white companion and an Indian guide. "Looking northward from this place," writes Thoreau, "it appeared as if we were entering a large bay, and we did not know whether we should be obliged to diverge from our course and keep outside a point which we saw, or should find a passage between this and the main land. I consulted my map and used my glass, and the Indian did the same; but we could not find our place exactly on the map, nor could we detect any break in the shore. When I asked the Indian the way, he answered, 'I don't know,' for he had never been up this side. It was misty, dogday weather. . . It seemed that, if we held on, we should be fairly embayed. Presently, however, the mist lifted somewhat, and revealed a break in the shore northward, showing that the point was a portion of Deer Island, and that our course lay westward of it. Where it had seemed a continuous shore even through a glass, one portion was now seen by the naked eye to be much more distant than the other which overlapped it, merely by the greater thickness of the mist which still rested on it." Another Point Gammon.

Captain Loring Fuller of South Yarmouth, who has sailed along the coast of Great Island more than a thousand times, offers no solution of the problem as to the origin of the name Point Gammon; but gives a version of the old Maushop myth that is new to the writer of this article. It runs thus:

"A very long time ago there lived a great Indian giant named Maushop, who could wade up and down Vineyard sound without finding the water more than knee deep. His home was in a cave called the Devil's Den on Gay Head. He used to sit on a boulder in the sound to smoke, and the ashes from his pipe, taken away by the currents, formed the island of Nantucket. He undertook to build a bridge from Gay Head to Cuttyhunk by filling one of his shoes with sand and wading out to empty it on the intended line; but a crab bit him on his uncovered foot and made him so angry that he broke off a portion of the cliff and threw it southward, thus forming the island called No Man's Land. He flung his five children into the sea and they were transformed into fishes. His wife remonstrated with him and he tossed her across the channel to Seaconnet." There! if that does not equal, in vivid imagination, the myths of the Israelites, the Assyri-

ans and Babylonians of four thousand years ago, then the writer is no judge.

This subject (Point Gammon and vicinity) will be continued in No. 9 of this series.

Meantime, will those persons who have either fact or tradition bearing upon the topic referred to, kindly forward same to the writer, who will serve as a sort of "clearing house" to receive, assort and publish later on. Names will not be printed if anyone objects.

The result of correspondence now at hand will be given from time to time.

The writer has no pet theories which he is trying to maintain; but is anxious to ascertain facts, before it is too late, and tradition is often helpful.

Traditions grow and change as the years pass. As one reaches the three score years and ten of human life he is sometimes temporarily in doubt whether certain events that occurred in his early lifetime were actually witnessed by himself, or were so vividly portrayed to him by another as to leave upon his mind and memory an impression as strong and enduring as that produced by personal experience.

A correspondent regrets that the writer doubts the fording of the channel between Point Gammon and Bishop's since the advent of the white man in New England; and states that a worthy citizen of say three generations ago said in his hearing that he, himself, "as a boy, waded across." Now, there is no intention on the part of anyone to insinuate wilful misrepresentation by any person. The writer for many years believed as did his correspondent; but accumulating evidence shook his faith in the fording; although he still believes that sheep and possibly larger animals were taken across the channel to pasture on the Bishop's island by means of scows.

In reply to a query on this subject he received the following from the U. S. Coast and Geodetic survey, bearing date Sept. 9.

"There is nothing on file in this department or bureau" (Depart- of Commerce) "to indicate that the locality about Bishop and Clerk's lighthouse was ever an island of any greater extent than at present shown upon the charts. The earliest survey by the coast survey was in 1847, and at that time the water north of the lighthouse was too deep to be forded. The earliest chart of the locality is that of 'Nantucket shoals' by Captain Paul Pinkham, 1791. It shows several rock symbols where Bishop and Clerk's lighthouse is located and three and one-half fathoms of water between there and Point Gammon. We have no information regarding the origin of the name Point Gammon."

A U. S. chart of "Hyannis harbor" whose hydrography is based on surveys made between 1888 and 1902 with certain corrections to Sept. 14, 1914, shows the distance from Point Gammon to the lighthouse on Bishop's to be about 2½ statute miles. There is a channel a little more than three-fourths of a mile wide, in which the water is more than 18 feet deep at its "mean low water;" the

depth in that vicinity being from 19 to 26 feet.

Summing up, we have as follows:

Depth of channel in 1791, 3½ fathoms (21 feet).

Lighthouse established on Point Gammon in 1816.

U. S. survey in 1847 shows channel "too deep to be forded."

Latest chart shows channel 19 to 26 feet deep at low water.

Tradition says that a man born in 1801 waded across this channel when a boy.

There is no doubt that the wearing away of this portion of the coast during the last three centuries has been very great. It has been estimated that the wearing away of the east coast of Nantucket in recent times has been as great as a foot per annum, and on parts of the south coast, three feet.

Geologists suppose that at least three to four miles have been washed into the sea from the east coast of Cape Cod in ages past. The waste from the land has greatly extended the bar off Bass river.

The question under discussion, however, is whether or not the channel referred to has, within a century or two, been shallow enough to be forded.

No. 10 of this series will review the residences along the county road from Parker's river bridge westward, covering a period of seventy years.

On the northerly side of the county road westerly from the bridge and distant from it, say fifteen rods or thereabout, there stood about eighty years ago a low double house occupied by the widow of Simeon Lewis, who was the sister of Elkanah Crowell 1st, born in 1757. Of their children, Mehitable married Isaiah Parker and Simeon married Thankful, sister of John Hallett.

Some twenty rods farther west on the same side of the road and about the same time, was the residence of Captain Winthrop Sears; a building of similar design to the one first named. In fact, that was the style of architecture that prevailed a century or more ago. It was the custom to have the front toward the south, having no reference to the location or direction of the nearest highway. In South Yarmouth representatives of this class are the Reuben Farris house and the Amos Baker house, the second dwelling south of the Hatsel Crosby place. The Baker house originally had the front door toward the river instead of on the street side. The most of such homes had a large room each side of the front door; the kitchen in the rear, with pantry and bedroom at one end and cellarway and bedroom at the other, and an immense chimney stack and brick oven directly back of the "front entry."

Captain Sears married first Betsey Crowell, and second Susannah Crowell. The children of the second marriage were Odlin, Susan, Abbie, Winthrop and Mary. The house is now occupied by Mrs Irene Taylor, widow of the late Roland Taylor. Still farther on was the low, double house of John Gorham, where he with his mother and sister lived some seventy-five or eighty years ago. This

building was torn down many years since; but the writer remembers its ancient appearance, its white plastered chimney of ample dimensions bearing evidence of its having been used as a target by passing gunners. Mr Gorham, who married late in life, was a very pious old gentleman, who used to lead the singing at prayer meetings, and who, the writer thinks, was a pensioner of the war of 1812, having served on the watch for the enemy along the coast from his station on Great Island.

It was in that war that the English armed vessel Nymph demanded a "ransom" of South Yarmouth to the amount of one thousand dollars, which was paid in two instalments.

Nearly opposite the site of the John Gorham house was a small house occupied by Warren Lewis, whose wife's name was Diantha. Their children were Phebe, Alfred, Edwin, Ruth and Thatcher, the last named living at present in Dennisport. This house was moved a number of years ago to South Yarmouth.

Still farther west on the north side of the road formerly stood the meeting house of the west precinct, built in 1794, in which the Rev Timothy Alden preached every fourth Sabbath for many years. About the year 1832 this structure was replaced by a more modern one; and this newer building was moved a few years ago to the south side of the highway near the schoolhouse.

In the early days many worshippers came from "Gray's country" and the Matthews settlement near the mouth of Bass river.

A little farther on, upon the same side of the street, was the home of Captain Odlin P. Sears, who married Thankful, daughter of Captain Elnathan Lewis, Senr. Their children were Cyrus and Richard. The old house was torn down and a new house erected on the same site. This is now owned and occupied by the heirs of the late Captain William Peak, son of John Peak, a onetime keeper of the lighthouse on Great Island.

Next on the south side of the road was the home of Thomas Crowell, who married Lydia, sister of Jabez Lewis. Their children were Serena, Eliza, Warren and Lydia. This residence stood just east of the cross roads leading to South Sea avenue on the one hand and North Lane on the other, the place being known as "The Four Corners." The dwelling was taken down some years ago and moved to Hyannis by George Miller. Thomas was of the seventh generation from "John Crowe of Bass Ponds."

On the northerly side of the highway and across North lane from the Odlin P. Sears homestead, stood the residence of Jabez Lewis, which was probably occupied by his father at a still earlier date. This also was a "low double house" corresponding to the style of architecture of the period when it was built. By his first wife, Thankful, the children were William, Thankful and Prentiss; by his second wife, Rebecca Howland, Edgar, Lothrop, Leonidas, Irene, Amelia, Elizabeth, Melora and George. The dwelling was

burned some twenty-five years ago.

The ancient cemetery is located just beyond the site of the Jabez Lewis home and is bounded on the west side by a road which leads to the former site of the town house. In the days when this cemetery was laid out, it was customary to have the burial ground in the immediate vicinity of the meeting house; but at that time the people of "South Sea" attended service on the north side of the town, hence the desirability of a burial place nearer the home village.

It seems a pity that so few of the earlier burials are marked by headstones; but this lack is easily accounted for by the fact that most of the pioneers were people of limited means, and the needs of the living were rather to be looked after than the marking of the resting places of the dead.

The old wooden fence which had heretofore enclosed the grounds was replaced in 1884 by a substantial stone and iron fence at a cost of $1755.23, the funds being raised by subscription, under the devoted management of the late Captain Sturgis Crowell, of the sixth generation from Thomas, son of Yelverton.

The town of Yarmouth contributed $300.00 and the following named persons each gave $100.00 or more: Captain Sturgis Crowell, Elisha Taylor, Esq., Elkanah Crowell, Jr., and Mrs Albert Chase. In addition to cash donations, many persons gave their labor and the use of their teams to forward this worthy object.

Across the highway from the cemetery are the recently built residences of Lothrop and Ferdinand Baker, and across a way which connects with South Sea avenue is that of Joshua Baker.

A short distance west from the residence last named, stands a small concrete structure recently built for the use of Christian Scientists. Opposite this is the home of George Taylor. The building was formerly the district schoolhouse located on South Sea avenue, which was referred to in No. 5 of this series.

Next west, stands the low double house formerly occupied by John Seymour and later by the late Benjamin Blachford. This dwelling has had many occupants, is in a good state of preservation and is now owned by Rev Lester Lewis, a descendant of Jabez Lewis hereinbefore mentioned.

Nearly opposite the place last named there stood many years ago an old-time dwelling known as the "Aunt Brown house." Aunt Brown was the mother of Blind Frank, a character known for miles around.

At the annual sheep washings and sheep shearings on Nantucket in the first half of the last century, Blind Frank filled the position of chief "fiddler" for the dancing in the evenings. In those days, as many as seven thousand sheep were pastured on Nantucket and the annual sheep shearing was an occurence of great interest.

Close by, Benjamin Blachford, who married Lydia Seymour, built a small house of more modern style. His children were Henry, John, Benjamin, Reuben, Frederic,

Lydia and Elizabeth.

The late Henry Blachford of the Yarmouth board of selectmen, was the last survivor of this large family.

Still farther west on the north side of the county road, was the low double house of Captain Elnathan Lewis, who used to have charge of the West Yarmouth postoffice when the stage brought the mail from Plymouth, not very regularly, some seventy-five or eighty years ago. The original dwelling was taken down some sixty-five years ago and a more modern structure built by Captain Lewis, who occupied it during the remainder of his life. This house came into possession of Captain Elkanah Crowell, 3d, and was moved in 1894 to Railroad avenue, Hyannis, where it is now occupied by him.

Captain Lewis owned a large tract of land extending from the county road to Lewis bay, a distance of more than half a mile, together with salt works near the shore. A road to the saltworks was laid out just west of the house. His children were Christopher, Thankful, Betsey, Phebe, Joseph and Edward. Captain Christopher Lewis married Susan Sears and established his home about seventy years ago directly opposite his father's. Christopher's children were Elnathan, Susan and Adelbert. The dwelling is now occupied by Mr E. B. Matthews, who married the daughter.

A little distance west from Captain Elnathan Lewis's old house, Captain Edward Lewis built a more up to date residence on the same side of the highway. He married Lucretia, daughter of Captain Ezekiel Crowell. Their children were Mary, Martha, Lavinia and Joseph. The last named, now living in Boston, is the sole survivor of that family. A fire in the woods, some fifteen years ago, kindled by sparks from a locomotive on the railroad caused the complete destruction of this fine residence.

Nearly opposite the Edward Lewis home, there stood for many years one of the old district schoolhouses which were superseded by the three larger structures now in use, and this one was moved about a half mile farther west to the woods back of the Downs cottage.

On its former site, Captain Joseph Bourne, who married Sarah, the daughter of Sylvanus Crowell, built a house. One son, Joseph, now resides in Boston, and the cottage is occupied by the superintendent of the Barnstable Water Co. When the late C. B. Corey bought Great Island, he purchased a right of way across the old fields in this vicinity, of Elnathan and John Lewis, the same extending to South Sea avenue, as it now lies open to travel.

A few rods farther west, and on the same side of the county road, the Congregational church built a parsonage not far from sixty years ago, which was afterward sold to Captain Arthur P. Blachford and occupied by his father, Captain Henry Blachford. Captain Blachford's first wife was Mary, daughter of the late Rev. Enoch E. Chase. Two children were the result of this marriage, both of whom died in their youth. The

captain married for his second wife Huldah Robbins. They also had two children. None of the members of this family are now living.

On the north side of the highway was the low, double house of John Lewis, which was probably owned by his ancestors before him, for it had the appearance of being very old. Many different tenants have resided in it during the last fifty to sixty years. John's wife was Ruth, daughter of Joyce Taylor, and their children were Simeon, Isaiah, Alice and Dora. The dwelling is now occupied by Anthony Montcalm.

Still farther west, Captain Arunah Whelden built a house some sixty years ago. He married Serena, daughter of Daniel Hallet. Of their two children, James and Carrie, the latter is still living. The dwelling was burned down about ten years ago.

Upon the same side of the highway, a little farther on, Captain Zimri Whelden, an older brother, established a fine residence. His first wife, who died young, was Mary, daughter of Captain Winthrop Sears, Senr. His second wife was Betsey, daughter of Captain Charles Baker, who lived a short distance east of Parkers river bridge. They had one son, Captain Charles Whelden, who married Hattie May, daughter of the late Captain Elbridge Crowell of South Yarmouth. Connected with this couple, who are now living, there are many memories which are exceedingly pleasant to the writer.

The dwelling last named was later owned and occupied by the late Captain Ephraim Crowell, and now by his son Julius, a former postmaster in that locality.

A short distance west from the home of Julius Crowell we see a small house, which, some seventy-five years ago, was the residence of Captain Hiram Crowell, born Jan. 12, 1804, who married Betsey, daughter of Captain Elnathan Lewis, in January, 1828. Christopher, a son of the above, died at sea some years ago. The house has of late been occupied by Mr Thacher.

Next, on the south side of the road, stands the small structure used for some ten or twelve years past for postoffice purposes and kept by Captain Richard Sears, the present postmaster.

Next comes a dwelling erected about sixty-five years since by Captain Benjamin Crowell, in which Postmaster Sears and wife, a daughter of the captain, now reside.

Still farther on, Captain Erastus Chase built a house of the same type as the one last mentioned. He married Betsey, daughter of Captain Higgins Crowell, Senr. Of the children, Alonzo, Erastus and Susan, the second son, a sea captain, died some years ago.

On the north side of the road, about opposite the Benjamin Crowell house, stands the home formerly of David Downs, Senr., now occupied by a son bearing the same name.

Back of the last named place, the old district schoolhouse stood for a time in the woods, as stated in a previous article. It was transformed into a hall and was

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subsequently destroyed by fire.

Close by, on the same side of the highway, was the old house of Sylvanus Crowell, who was born July 11, 1786, married Susan Baker in 1809 and died April 17, 1856. He was a lineal descendant of John Crowe of Bass Ponds in the eighth generation. His children were Freeman H., Lot, Sylvanus, Betsey, Susan, Sarah, Christina and Orlando. This old house was torn down about forty-five years ago and to its site, Freeman H., the oldest son, who married Olive, the daughter of Captain John Hallet of Great Island, moved the Captain Hallet house as mentioned in the fourth chapter of this series. The premises finally passed to the ownership of the late F. A. Abell of Pawtucket. By him, the dwelling was enlarged and the grounds extended and greatly improved and beautified. Both Mr and Mrs Abell have recently died and this fine estate is now held by their heirs.

Next to the Abell estate, on the corner at the junction of the county road and an old road leading to the "North side," stands a small house which has changed owners several times and is now occupied by the heirs of the late Dustin Baker.

On the diagonal corner, next to Berry avenue, so called, Captain Higgins Crowell, Jr., established his residence. He was a descendant of John Crowe of Bass Ponds in the 8th generation, was born in 1809, and married Abigail, daughter of Captain Winthrop Sears, Senior, in 1835, whose children were Odlin, Susan, Abbie, Winthrop and Mary. The dwelling was destroyed by fire several years ago and a new house erected on its site by Mr Chester Stacy.

Across the highway and a short distance west, Captain Kelley H. Crowell, who also was descended from John of Bass Ponds in the eighth generation, built a residence similar to that of Captain Higgins Crowell. His wife was Mary Lee, daughter of Anthony Chase. Their children were Howes and Ella. The last named married Dr W. J. Nickerson, formerly of South Yarmouth. None of this family are now living. The dwelling is now owned and occupied by Miss Flora Baker.

Next, on the same side of the road, is the low, double house of Thomas[5] Crowell— Abner[4], Thomas[3], Thomas[2], Yelverton[1]. Thomas was born in 1766 and married Mary, daughter of Gorham Crowell, in 1789. Mary survived her husband, dying in 1853 at the age of 81 years. The residence was known for many years as "the Molly Thomas house" to distinguish it from "the Molly Crowell house" down "the Lane," now South Sea avenue. The children of Thomas and Mary were Washington and Mary Ann. The last named married Jabez Perry and the old home is occupied during the summer season by their heirs.

Across the county road, nearly opposite the old "Molly Thomas house, stands a dwelling formerly occupied by Leander Crowell and subsequently by the late Captain Washburn Baker, who married Cordelia, daughter of Anthony Chase, in 1834. Their children, none of whom are now living,

were Albert, Delia, Howard and Edward. The house is now owned and occupied by Prescott H. Baker, son of the late Isaiah F. Baker, and in the sixth generation from Silas Baker, Senior, who was born not far from the year 1700.

Still farther west on the same side of the highway, and on the hill a short distance from it, is the two story schoolhouse erected in, or about, the year 1854. On account of the small number of attending pupils, one of the lower rooms has been used for library purposes.

There is considerable contrast between the methods of instruction now prevailing and those in 1693 when it was voted to divide the town into "five squadrons," of which "South Sea" was to be known as No. 5, the boundaries to be as follows: "Beginning at Thomas Bills', all the west side of Bass River and South Sea, and to Thomas Batter's." A committee was appointed "to agree with some fit person to teach school" and South Sea's share of his labors was to extend "from July 15, to last of August" annually.

"In 1712, Mr. Jaquesh, school master, was allowed £24 salary, and 5 shillings per week additional for board." He was to teach children to read, write and cypher and to give them some knowledge of grammar and Latin.

Close by the schoolhouse stands the meetinghouse, which was moved from its former site a half-mile farther east, about eight years ago.

Across the road is the low double house of the late James Crowell or "Squire James" as he was popularly known. The squire was born in 1767, was of the fifth generation from Yelverton, the pioneer, in the line of Thomas, son of the latter. He married, first, Ruth Howes, by whom he had two children: Marten, who died at sea at the age of twenty-one years, and Ruth H., born in 1798, who married Silas Baker of South Yarmouth, and was well known locally for many years as a preacher in the Society of Friends or Quakers. For his second wife, Squire James married Deborah Robbins, generally known in that community as "Aunt Deborah." To her were born the following named children: Harrison, Russell, Lucy Ann, James, Rufus, Winslow, Alger, Olive A., Edwin, Randall, Mary H., and one other who appears to have died young. None of this large family are now living, and the dwelling is now owned by a family from Pawtucket.

About sixty-five years ago Captain Benjamin Adams Crowell of the eighth generation from John Crowe of Bass Ponds (vicinity of Follens pond) purchased the building which previously had been the store of Deacon Anthony Chase, moved it to a site a little west from the Congregational meetinghouse, and converted it into a dwelling. The captain was born in 1813 and married Cyrene Crowell in 1838. Their children were Philena, Herbert and Goodrich. The house is now occupied by the widow of Herbert, above named, who after his decease married Lewis Taylor.

Next to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Taylor, Captain John Orlando, a native of Sweden, erected his dwelling. Captain Orlando married Betsey, widow of Solomon Howes of Dennis and daughter of George and Olive Crowell. Captain Orlando was an able mariner and became master of a fine large schooner, which was wrecked on a voyage from Boston to South America. The captain was four days on the wreck, and by exposure became paralyzed to such an extent that he was unable to walk. His ingenuity came to his assistance, and he constructed a vehicle propelled by hand power, which enabled him to go about the village quite freely. He also built a large boat, so arranged as to have every rope within easy reach as he sat in the stern. He could make sail, weigh anchor, reef sails, and come to anchor without moving from his seat; and he even went to Marthas Vineyard summers and took parties out for a sail upon the "briny deep." Since his decease his residence has been sold and is at present occupied by strangers.

About opposite the former home of Captain Orlando stands a low single house which was once the residence of Ebenezer Crowell, commonly known as "Ebenezer Daniel" to distinguish him from Captain Ebenezer who lived on South Sea avenue. He was the brother of Squire James, was born in 1784 and married Dorcas Lewis. Their children were Benjamin, Ann and Ephraim. The former occupants have all passed away and the old home is owned and occupied by strangers.

A little beyond, on the same side of the highway, Osborn, son of Captain Lysander Chase, erected a structure to be used for store purposes below and for a dwelling on the second floor. This property was later sold to the late Isaiah Crowell, son of Captain Elkanah, 2d, who carried on the grocery business there for some twenty years or thereabout, and about fifteen years ago was bought by the late Winchester Johnson.

The dwelling next to the store, in which Captain Daniel Taylor now lives, was once the home of Amos Crowell, a descendant in the seventh generation of John Crowe of Bass Ponds. He married Rhoda, daughter of Judah Crowell of Bass Ponds ancestry, in 1817. Their daughter Ruth became the wife of Lysander Chase, Senior, and the last named and their children, Amanda, Osborn, Ruth and Lysander, occupied the premises for a number of years.

Just opposite the last mentioned place is the house of Captain Reuben Blachford, built some twenty-five years ago.

It is the old Captain Ebenezer Crowell house moved from South Sea avenue, as stated in No. 4 in this series, and rejuvenated. It is now owned and occupied, the writer is informed; by Mrs. Addie F. Crowell, one of his contemporaries in the early school days in the new schoolhouse in South Yarmouth. He recalls the time when the upper room was so crowded that several of the boys were obliged to sit on the girls' side, himself being one of the

number; and now after some sixty years have passed, he still lives to testify to the uniformly good nature and genial disposition of his nearest neighbor and to express the wish that years of happiness and comfort yet await her. Her husband was the late Orris B. Crowell, son of Captain Elkanah, 2d, formerly of South Sea avenue.

On the north side of the road and a little to the west is the fine two story house built by Captain Heman B. Chase, a grandson of Anthony, Senior. By his first wife, Emily F. Hinckley of Barnstable, he had one son, Heman B., and by his second, Clarence, Edward, Emily and Walter. The fine homestead later became the property of Isaiah, a brother of Orris B. Crowell named above. He married Mercy B., daughter of Captain Zadock Crowell of South Sea avenue, their children being Joshua F., Thomas and Isaiah.

Beyond, on the same side of the highway, still stands the low double house of Captain Heman Chase, who, with his family, occupied it for many years. His children were Lysander, Joshua, Heman B., Mary, Abbie, Davis, Andrew and Louise. Later, the house was owned by David Merchant and now by his heirs.

Opposite is the former home of Luke Chase, son of Deacon Anthony. The building was moved from Hyannis some seventy years ago. Since the decease of Mr Chase in 1855 the place has been owned by several parties, is still in good condition and occupied by strangers.

Crossing a narrow road that extends southerly to Lewis bay, we come to a house that is "an old timer," indeed. With its low underpinning and its curb roof it is calculated to attract more than a passing notice from the stranger who travels that way. The building has within a few years been considerably enlarged but the shape of the original structure can still be traced. The writer remembers very distinctly taking a long walk in that vicinity in 1878, and of meeting Rev. Enoch E. Chase, who then lived in the old house referred to above. He said that his father, Deacon Anthony, moved to that home in 1799 and that he himself was born there in 1804 and had resided there ever since. In reply to an inquiry concerning Indians who had lived thereabout two centuries or more previously, the rev. gentleman pointed out the old Indian burial place which the town had reserved in the early days, and which is located on a peninsula of upland extending into the low ground on the east side of Chase's brook, so called, on the northerly side of the county road. The peninsula, which is about ten rods in width, was partly covered with a small growth of wood, mostly pine, with a clump of oaks on the easterly part. Mr Chase said that the burial place had been encroached upon by cultivation of the adjoining field. At a town meeting, possibly thirty-five years ago, at which it was proposed to place stone bounds upon each one of the town's reservations, this old burial place being one, Mr. Chase said that his father and

himself had occupied the premises for many years; but if the town had any Indians to be buried, they could be brought along and he should not object to their burial near the graves of their fathers. The children of Deacon Anthony Chase by his second wife, Mary Eldridge, were Enoch E. and a son who was lost at sea. The children of Rev. Enoch E. Chase were Mary, George, Rebecca and Alexander.

Opposite this ancient structure stands a small house owned formerly by Anthony Chase, Jr., whose children were Albert, Erastus, Cordelia, Leonard, Mary, Anthony and Benjamin.

Crossing the brook already mentioned, which unites with the Baxter's mill stream before reaching Lewis bay, we come to the small dwelling formerly the residence of Captain William Howes, a successful skipper in the mackerel fishery. This home has changed owners several times and is now owned and occupied by Mr. Lysander Chase.

On the opposite side of the highway Captain Leonard Chase, a son of Deacon Anthony by his first wife, Keziah Baker, built a house which was owned and occupied by himself and family. Later this dwelling came into the posession of Captain Gorham Crowell of the sixth generation from Yelverton the pioneer.

Some forty years ago an attempt was made to establish a trout hatchery in the brook close by. The pools were carefully laid out and kept in excellent condition for some years by Mr. Eben Perry, a son of Jabez Perry; but were finally abandoned as the venture proved unsuccessful. Without any special information as to the cause of failure, one might easily conceive it to be a lack of pure, cold spring water, which seems to be the natural habitat for brook trout. Mr. Perry was certainly entitled to much credit for the time, energy and funds which he expended upon this experiment.

A short distance west of the William Howes residence lived, some sixty years ago, Mr. Asa Crocker with his large family. He was a shoe cobbler and worked for Mr. Daniel Crowell in Hyannis.

About a quarter of a mile still farther west, on the south side of the highway, on Eleazer's hill, so called, stands the old-time home of Eleazer, a brother of Captain Timothy Baker, Senr., and in the fifth generation from Francis, a pioneer. Eleazer, or "Uncle Eleazer" as he was called, was miller in the "Baxter's mill" near by, some seventy-five years ago, and for many years after the "Little mill" in West Yarmouth ceased its labors. The dwelling has had many different tenants during the long period of its existence.

Away back "in the forties," on the left hand side of the highway, stood the residence of Captain Alexander Baxter, quite an extensive owner in shipping, who married Sophronia, a half-sister of the Rev. E. E. Chase. Some years later this building was moved farther west to the corner next to a road leading to Lewis bay, and a large double house

was erected on the old site. Here the captain and his good wife resided for many years, and after their decease the property came into the possession of Captain John A. Baxter, a brother of Captain Alexander, who occupied the premises for some years. In 1876 this fine residence was destroyed by fire. Captain Crowell, in writing of this event, says: "It was a beautifully clear night. The moon casting its golden rays over the old mill pond upon the high land in the background, formed a picture which it would be difficult for an artist to equal in the beauty and grandeur of its scenic effect. But, mingled with the beauty of the scene was the sadness of such an ending of so beautiful a place."

The old gristmill directly opposite the Captain Baxter residence was known as Baxter's mill. It was at one time owned by Captain Timothy Baker, Senr., (born in the first half of the eighteenth century) and later by his son, Captain Joshua Baker, born in 1766. The mill pond was fed by several streamlets which came down from the north; but, its work having been completed, the dam has been allowed to wash away; and, there being some question as to ownership, we learn that this once beautiful and interesting spot is now grown up with rushes. It seems as if the water power here might, in this day of improved machinery, be made again to serve a useful purpose.

Returning now to the "Four Corners" at the head of South Sea avenue, we take the North lane, so called, and proceed northerly. This roadway was doubtless, in the early days of the settlement, an Indian trail, which, with its branches, led to Bass river and the Indian settlements lying northerly and easterly.

Near the Corners, on the left hand side, stood the home of Jeremiah Gorham, generally known as Jeremy, a brother of John, heretofore mentioned.

On the same side of the way, a little farther north, was the residence of James Whelden, whose sons, Zimri and Arunah, became prominent masters both of sailing ships and steamers. Several other members of the same family became officers of steam vessels.

Nearly opposite was the home of Thomas Sherman, who married Rebecca Burgess, a daughter of Isaiah Burgess. Their children were Stephen, Mary, Thomas and Lydia. The father of Thomas, Senr., was Ichabod Sherman, a blacksmith, who came to Indian town (South Yarmouth) from New Bedford not far from the year 1790 in company with Captain Benjamin Tripp and Abiel Akin, father of the late David K. Akin. He died in 1844. Isaiah Burgess and his wife Nancy were near neighbors of Thomas Sherman, Senr.

A little to the north, and on the west side of the lane, we come to the site of the old house of Higgins Crowell, Senr., whose children were Higgins, Ruth, Betsey and Benjamin. His second wife was Patience Coleman.

On the east side of the road which led from North lane directly to the "little mill," more than eighty years ago lived Mr. Joyce

Taylor, father of a large family. Several of the sons were noted skippers of mackerel catchers fifty to sixty years ago. Joyce, Freeman, Henry and Dustin, who became captains, were worthy of their ancestry. The little mill ceased its labors more than thirty years ago.

North lane proper extends across the mill stream just north of the site of the little mill and was, in the early days, bordered by homesteads as far as Long pond; for this was the main highway until Parkers river bridge was built. Now, we believe, not a single building remains on this once frequented way.

The fact that the site of the John Crow house is several rods west of South Sea avenue has led some people to suppose that the highway has been relocated. To the writer of this article, the evidence points to the contrary. In the earliest days of settlement, when the danger of attacks by Indians was great, the pioneer who wished to establish a home at a distance from his neighbors, so placed his dwelling within his clearing as to have an open space on all sides, in order that he might more easily detect the presence of an enemy and also to diminish the danger from forest fires.

When Yelverton came to this locality in 1639 or 40 his nearest neighbors were probably located some four miles or more distant. About ten years later his nearest neighbor on the east was Richard Berry, who established a home near the mouth of Bass river. At the time of his decease, in 1683, his son John was forty-one years old, and he had but two grandchildren living in Yarmouth, the elder being less than two years of age.

It is quite reasonable to suppose that the spot known by reliable tradition as the site of John's residence, marks also the location of the home of his father, Yelverton. One other season for locating the residence at a distance from the well marked trail might have been that water was more easily to be obtained from a spring or shallow well on the ground near at hand.

In closing this series, the writer would earnestly invite any information respecting the Baxter's mill and the little mill; the dates of their establishment and of their falling into disuse; together with any other facts relating to the history of the section in which they are located; and especially does he invite correction of any errors which may have appeared, and a criticism of any portion of the series; for in this way is gained a more definite knowledge of historic facts.

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